

right to self-determination and ensure that these needs take precedence over capitalistic prospect. Moreover, as will be evidenced by my introduction of a bill to authorize the formation of a women's peace commission, I strongly advocate the involvement of women in the peace and rebuilding process in leadership capacities. In fact, not only should the women's peace commission be composed of Members of Congress, American small, minority, and women-owned businesses should also be active in the rebuilding process.

As to the potential misleading of the public as to the U.S. motive for waging war on Iraq, I will offer a resolution calling for the establishment of an independent commission to study the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies in gathering and disseminating intelligence on WMD in Iraq, the current administration's knowledge of WMD in Iraq, and the accuracy of the information given to the public. During a Presidential address on March 17, 2003, President Bush stated, "Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised." Thereupon, the administration initiated Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 19, 2003. Although the public justification for this war was Saddam Hussein's alleged possession of WMD, we have seen nothing to date in the form of WMD in Iraq. This failure to locate any WMD in Iraq or any evidence that WMD have been destroyed or relocated strongly suggests the U.S. intelligence's inaccuracy or the inaccurate communication of this information to the public. At this point, thorough assessment of the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies with respect to the gathering of information as to WMD will be required to restore public confidence in the American Government before we are in a position to efficiently offer genuine aid in the rebuilding process of Iraq.

The United Nations (U.N.) has been in the nation-building/rebuilding business on a worldwide scale for over a decade: East Timor, Cambodia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti, and to some extent El Salvador, Guatemala, and parts of Africa. Although the U.N. has experts and experience, it does not have sufficient resources in which to undertake the task of rebuilding Iraq. While, as I mentioned above, the international community looks to us for the lion's share of support resources, we must yield to the U.N. as a legitimizer of a new order in Iraq. Legitimacy through international alliances and high overt purpose is vital to an effective rebuilding process. The U.N. power is that bestowed upon it by its member-nations; however, it has great capacity to bestow legitimacy to this effort. In obtaining legitimacy through the U.N., we must not abuse the interest in self-determination of the Iraqi people. All ameliorative efforts should aim toward the goal of facilitating Iraqis in running their own trials without the involvement of U.N. international expertise. Furthermore, the United Nations will aid the effort to build internationally acceptable electoral machinery and run elections for the rebuilding nation. Experienced U.N. advisers could remain in government ministries, for years if necessary, without creating looking like an occupation.

As to the method of rebuilding Iraq, I have suggested the creation of a bipartisan, bicameral working group on Iraqi reconstruction. I proposed the convening of an immediate

working group to craft a comprehensive strategy for the reconstruction of Iraq. I am deeply troubled by the reports we are receiving from Iraq. The picture that was painted for us before the war—what we would find and how the Iraqi people would respond to being "liberated"—seems to be wholly inaccurate. It seems that our forces, as well as the American people, were unprepared for the challenges we are now facing. It is essential that we develop a truer vision for the future of Iraq, and a realistic plan for making that vision come to be. Doing so will demand all the expertise and experience that Congress has to offer.

To tap into those skills, we should form a working group, composed of a diverse array of qualified and committed Members of Congress. Conceptually, we must immediately dispense with partisanship and turf-wars and come together to form a plan that is right for our troops, right for the people of Iraq, and worthy of support and financing by the American people. We do not have the luxury of time to start this discussion in both the House and Senate, a dozen committees, and then assimilate ideas later. So, I propose that we convene a joint House-Senate bipartisan working group on Iraq.

Since tensions began to escalate in Iraq last year, I have consistently fought for resolving the crisis with four goals in mind: minimizing the loss of American lives; minimizing the impact on the Iraqi people; minimizing the costs to the American taxpayers; and ensuring that our work in Iraq leads to long-term peace and stability in Iraq and the Middle East. I believe that those of us against the war, as well as those who supported it, can all agree on those four principles. We owe it to our troops and to the people of Iraq to acknowledge the problems that exist, and to make the investments of time and money necessary to get the job done—so we can bring our troops home.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CRAMER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and July 9 on account of official business.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

Mr. SANDLIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of traveling with a congressional delegation to Iraq.

Mr. GOSS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 9, 10, 14, and 15.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today and July 9 and 10.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and July 9.

Mr. KOLBE, for 5 minutes, today and July 9.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 9, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3009. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [OPP-2003-0179; FRL-7311-5] received June 20, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3010. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flufenacet (N-(4-fluorophenyl)-N-(1-methylethyl)-2-[[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]oxy]acetamide; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0181; FRL-7313-9] received June 20, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3011. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0133; FRL-7306-8] received May 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3012. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0088; FRL-7308-6] received May 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.